



our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Winter 1989



Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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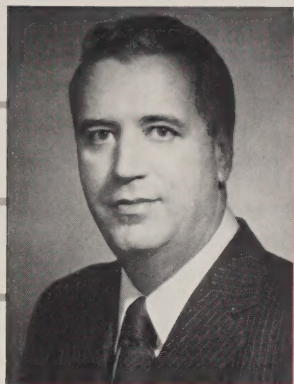


COVER:

Cover cat "Bert" celebrates a cozy holiday in his Peabody home with owner Joan Ford, who entered the photo in the League's 90th Anniversary Photo Contest. Bert and his companion, "Ernie," were both adopted by Ms. Ford from the League's Sale shelter.

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Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking Ahead to the 100th!

As we come to the close of our 90th Anniversary year and look forward to the final decade approaching our 100th Anniversary, we recognize the League has many things to be grateful for and proud of over its long history.

There have been improvements in laws providing protection for animals, new developments in the products and techniques for the care of animals, and a great expansion in the League's capability to care for animals. Today the League has the good fortune of operating four modern shelters plus the large animal facility and Pine Ridge Cemetery in Dedham and our Animal Friends Summer School on Cape Cod. All of these accomplishments and many more were part of our founder's dream, when, on March 13, 1899, the Animal Rescue League of Boston was officially incorporated in Boston.

Our history has played a vital role in many important events in the humane movement, but the next decade of the 1990's sets an unprecedented opportunity for great challenge and special accomplishments.

An immediate concern is the need to deal effectively with the issue of steel-jaw leghold traps, the so-called "padded or soft-catch trap" and any other such cruel devices. Hopefully we are on the verge of dealing with this issue in our state, but it, like so many other issues, needs to be resolved on a national basis. Education will without question continue to play an essential role for the permanent solution of so many humane concerns.

The basic issue of the fur trade in our own and other nations will be a major factor during the 1990's and no doubt the whole issue of inhumane trapping will hang on whether fur fads can be abolished in our culture. There are presently strong indications that such will be the case in the next decade. There are a number of nations leading the way in this battle and our country needs to move into this group.

The long-standing problem of over-population of dogs and cats is going to see substantial correction in the years just ahead. Humane education is at a point where it is making serious impressions on the pet-owning public to curb this excess. The spaying and neutering message should make major strides in the 1990's and hopefully new surgical and other techniques will make birth control possible at a much earlier age and in a simpler and safer fashion. Increased public awareness and acceptance of the solutions to over-population and improved techniques should combine for extensive improvements.

On our own local level, we look forward to the establishment of another branch shelter on the South Shore to enable us to better serve the greater Plymouth area. We look for and we will be working for refinements in our anti-cruelty laws, especially as they relate to the fines and punishments in these laws and more stringent regulations governing the fields of housing, training and emotional and physical stress of animals.

There is a vital need to address many problems in the animal control field. Essential among these is the careful revision of the dog laws to focus on better control, protection of the public and more humane care and treatment of the animals. Proper training and education of animal control personnel has begun and it needs to continue at all levels.

Our inspection of research facilities in Massachusetts must continue to be a meaningful safeguard for the unfortunate animals used for such work. We are ever mindful of the need for alternative means of research to reduce the need for animal involvement. It is hoped that the years just ahead will help us find answers to such vexing and vital problems.

The problems sometimes seem endless and overpowering, but we must not lose sight of the fact that progress is often neither easy nor quick.

As we start this most important decade in the League's history, we dare not forget our most important strength—our many members and friends who make our many endeavors possible. It is especially heartwarming to note that this list of supporters is constantly growing and it is today at an all-time high.

May the blessings of this Holiday Season be with you all as we say "Thank you" for being such special friends who have given us such splendid support. We will need to count on your continued interest if we are to accomplish the goals so urgently needed for the years ahead. Please join us in this great need.

A CLASS ACT

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland



"Shasta" and owner Michelle Finneran of Neponset (above) listen intently to teacher's instructions.

An obedient student (right) sniffs out a well-deserved treat offered by trainer Melanie Stilson of Red Acre Farm.



The second eight-week-long canine obedience course held at the Animal Rescue League of Boston headquarters is coming to a close. Approximately fifteen dog owners attending this session were polled on their motivation for enrolling and their opinion on the progress, if any, their pets had made during the course. The answers were all positive with some being just plain humorous.

The dog owners were close to unanimous in their primary reason for attending the obedience course, which is taught by Carolyn Lessard of Canine Behavior Services, Inc. Most of the owners simply wanted to improve the behavior of their dogs, thereby upgrading the quality of the relationship between dog and owner. There were several dog owners who also signed up for the course in order to address a specific behavioral problem. Many of the owners wanted their dogs trained so that they would respond to commands immediately, thus insuring the pet's safety near roads or in other

dangerous situations. If their dog was running toward a road bustling with traffic, the owner wanted to be able to shout a command which would halt the dog and most certainly save its life.

Almost every dog owner knows the frustration of trying to convince a dog to "come" when the dog would prefer to run circles around them while staying just inches away from the hand that is flailing madly to catch it. I have been taunted by my own dog "Waldo" to the point where I literally lost control and chased him on foot, actually believing I was going to catch him! In the end, all I succeeded in doing was running myself into the ground and providing "Waldo" with what he considered to be a very entertaining half hour of "tag." Many of the dog owners in the class, having had the same experience, hoped to teach their dogs "recall" so that they would always come when called. Again, this might someday serve to protect the pet in a dangerous situation.

Diane Cloutier of Boston attended the course with her Cocker Spaniel "Hobson" who was an alleged thief. Diane's hope in attending the course was to curb "Hobson's" propensity for "chewing stolen items and getting on the couch." The fix-it list on "Hobson" did not stop there, however, because





is also apparently a canine "nag" who wanted to bark for something when he wanted it and would continue to bark until he got it. Diane and "Hobson" fell in love with the class and the instructors; Diane called the training provided in the class "a Godsend." She said that "Hobson," who is seven months old, "responded excellently well to the course, and so we highly recommend the class and course to a few people."

Jennifer Rose of Wayland attended class with her seven-month-old Weimarer, "Roxbury." Jennifer was going ahead to a time when "Roxbury" would "weigh more than me" and wanted to start obedience training when that actually happened. "Roxbury" was a very timid pup when she began, but "he has gotten a great deal better at being with strangers and listening to me" by the end of the course.

Many of the dog owners doubted their pets would actually learn to be obedient and well-trained pups. Ed Andrews of Milton said of his seven-month-old Border Collie, "I never thought 'Tess' would heel, it happened!" Nancy of Randolph admitted, "Despite 'Tess's' misbehavior, he has accomplished a great deal. He has finally

learned to heel, which has made walking together a pleasure." Maai Lee of Boston was frustrated at how "stubborn" her six-month-old Siberian Husky "Ivan" could be, both during and away from the training sessions. At the end of the course, Maai's most memorable moment was actually seeing "the incredible improvement in 'Ivan's' behavior and performance."

Incredibly, many of the dog owners credited their dogs with the improvement exhibited in class, as if the owner's contribution was inconsequential! As the course instructor Carolyn Lessard commented, "The dog and owner are a 'team' and neither the dog nor the owner can accomplish successful obedience training if they do not communicate and work together. All of the dogs want to be 'good,' they just need to be shown how." Mrs. Patricia L. Young of Dorchester summed it up best when she spoke of the success she and her Lhasa Apso "Dottie" experienced through the course. "I kind of had a feeling that there was more between her ears than just fur."

For more information on future canine obedience courses, call Gail Fisher at 603-942-7668.



Alan Cunningham (left), assistant manager of the League's Dedham shelter, teaches the "down" command to "Bonnie" and her owner Jean L'Esperance of Stoneham.

"Dottie" (top photo) demonstrates her skills for an appreciative audience.

Nancy Hahn (above) of Randolph has a word of praise for her spaniel "Kelsey."

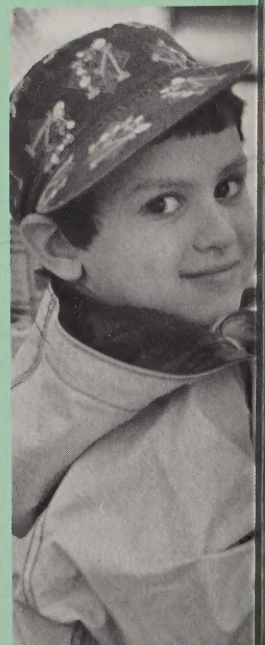


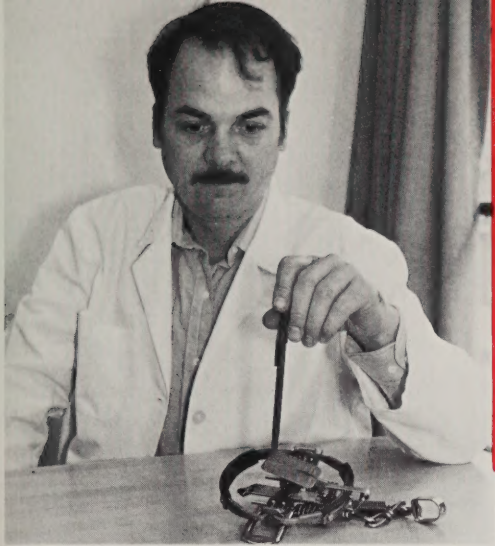


90TH ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE



The League's 90th anniversary celebration officially culminated in an open house at the Boston headquarters, held Sunday, September 17. Photos (clockwise, from top right) show: an outdoor gathering of farm animals attract passerby attention at the corner of Arlington and Tremont Streets; herpetologist Rick Stafford demonstrates exotic reptiles; Yaacov Snyder, 5½, of Brookline was among many who adopted pets that day; the fine features of a feathered friend are demonstrated by Vicky Smythe of the New England Wildlife Center; Naomi Ratner, 1, (above) gets acquainted with "Trevor," a hearing dog from the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center; and Cate Conklin of Watertown (top) visits with adoption pets.





Dr. Edward A. Leonard conducted tests of the padded jaw leghold trap, using pens, rulers and even his own fingers.

stated: "I have treated domestic pets and wild animals injured by steel-jaw leghold traps. These animals suffered severe injury to legs and paws with destruction of skin, bone and connective tissues. Often these injuries have been fatal, due to damage from the mechanical injury made worse by normal behavioral and physiologic responses. Attempts to escape, struggling, and defensive or redirected aggression further injure and weaken the animal. I have examined and tested a "Soft Catch" coil-spring trap. It is my professional opinion, based on the damage the trap did to wooden rulers, pencils, and my own fingers, that these padded traps will cause the same type of injury and damage to domestic pets and wild animals as that caused by unpadded steel-jaw leghold traps."

Injuries to animals caught in padded jaw traps have been documented in a number of scientific studies, at least one of which was conducted on behalf of the company that manufactures the "Soft Catch" device.

Court Action Seeks Ban on "Not-so-tender" Trap

The Animal Rescue League of Boston, together with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Massachusetts Audubon Society, went to court in October to prevent the use of the padded steel-jaw leghold trap, a slightly modified version of an inhumane trapping device that has been outlawed in the state for the past fourteen years.

On October 31, the eve of the November 1st opening of the trapping season, Suffolk Superior Court Judge Margaret Botsford responded to their request by issuing a preliminary injunction blocking the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife from implementing new regulations that would have allowed the use of the padded jaw trap to capture fur-bearing animals.

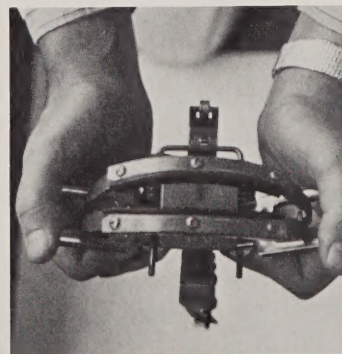
A Massachusetts law enacted in 1974 banned leghold traps, but the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in a criminal case last year that a padded jaw trap was not a steel leghold trap as defined by General Law, Chapter 31, Section 80A. The court, however, specifically noted that it was not rendering an opinion as to whether the padded jaw trap violated other provisions of the statute relating to the device's humaneness. Nevertheless, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, acting on the Supreme Judicial Court's decision for support, subsequently issued regulations in September, 1989 allowing use of the padded trap to capture raccoons, otters, beavers, red and grey fox, bobcats, coyotes, skunks, weasels, opossums, mink and muskrat.

It is the position of the League, and the basis of the current legal action, that the padded jaw leghold trap, known as the "Soft Catch" trap, is illegal under the present law, which specifically forbids the use of steel-jaw leghold traps and any "other device which is set in such a manner that it will knowingly cause continued suffering to a (furring) mammal caught therein, or which is not designed to kill such an animal at once, or take it alive unhurt."

In his sworn affidavit filed in connection with the hearing leading to the preliminary injunction, Dr. Edward A. Leonard, director of veterinary medicine at the League,

In his affidavit, Dr. Gus W. Thornton, president of the MSPCA, testified: "I have reviewed scientific studies on the injuries caused by the padded jaw leghold trap known as the "Soft Catch" trapping system. These studies show injuries including, from least to more severe, edema, lacerations, dislocated joints, simple and compound fractures, and amputated limbs. These injuries, the last four in particular, cause severe pain and suffering."

League president Arthur G. Slade, and Richard W. Mable, of Powers and Hall, the League's attorney, express their joint hope that this preliminary injunction will be followed by a permanent injunction banning the use of this device. "We have tried without success to resolve our concerns by working directly with the state wildlife agency. Now it is our hope that the court will determine that the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife exceeded its authority in promulgating this regulation, and the regulation will be rendered null and void in terms of permitting the use of padded jaw traps. This is a very important issue for Massachusetts wildlife," they stated.



A thin layer of padding (visible in closeup above) did not prevent this padded jaw trap from snapping a pen in half.



TRAIL TROUBLES

Horseback riding in the city? A chance for urban youngsters to go on trail rides in Franklin Park?

Initial reaction to a proposal to develop and operate a riding stable at the site of the 98-year-old former Jamaica Plain Stables on Williams Street was predictably favorable among area residents, but a closer examination of the plans and their potential effect on the welfare of the horses involved has raised serious concerns among local animal welfare advocates.

The Animal Rescue League and several other humane organizations have voiced strong opposition to the plan which was tentatively approved this past summer by the City of Boston's Public Facilities Department and would allow Paul Novograd, a New York City stable owner, to build a two-story riding stable which would house 70 horses on the 1.36-acre site. Novograd plans to board horses at the stable, and provide trail rides in Franklin Park.

The League's primary concerns focus on both the suitability of the site as a humane accommodation for so many horses, and the qualifications of the designated developer.

Representatives of the League, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Alliance for Animals have unanimously expressed the opinion that 70 horses is far too many to be humanely accommodated on 1.36 acres of land. In addition to inadequate turn-out and exercise space for that number of horses, other issues raised include the potential for sanitation, health, fire and safety hazards that would exist in these over-crowded conditions. Also, Williams Street is a congested, residential street, narrow and one-way. Horses would need to be ridden down Williams Street to get to Franklin Park, further increasing congestion and posing a danger to both horses and pedestrians.

At a public hearing, Novograd dismissed these concerns as unwarranted, citing his management of the Claremont

Stables on New York City's upper west side as evidence that horses can live well in a small, urban environment. However, several Boston humane organization representatives, including League agent Martha Parkhurst, drew far different conclusions from the evidence witnessed when they visited the New York stables this summer. In a 97-year-old, five-story building, housing nearly 100 horses on a fraction of an acre, Ms. Parkhurst saw "blatant disregard for maintaining the facility in a safe and humane manner." They found broken windows, an open elevator shaft, workers smoking in view of "no smoking" signs, horses turned loose to go down steep ramps alone, and water not available to the horses at all times. Ms. Parkhurst also spotted a guard dog confined in a storage area, in a small cage, with insufficient food and water, and accumulated excrement.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) in New York City has issued several citations to the Claremont Stables for health and safety infractions, including no sprinkler systems or air exchange systems to dissipate fumes from manure and urine. "There is no turn-out space for outdoor rest and grazing; the horses are confined to the building unless they are going to Central Park with a rider," according to ASPCA law enforcement supervisor Jill Schenkel.

In a September letter to the League, Boston Public Facilities Director Lisa Chapnick stated that "tentative designation is not final approval of the proposal, and does not mean that the Public Facilities Department or the neighborhood residents support all aspects of Paul Novograd's proposal." In coming months, the League will continue to work with the city in an effort to see that their concerns are addressed. Members who would like to express their concerns or questions regarding the stable proposal can contact their representatives on the Boston City Council, City Hall, Boston, MA 02201.

A controversial plan to develop riding stables in Boston would utilize the 98-year-old Jamaica Plain stable site on Williams Street.



WHEN YOU LOSE A GOOD FRIEND

Everyone who has enjoyed the love and companionship of a pet must one day face the emotional loss and sadness that comes with the animal's death. For many, this grief is compounded by an inability to share it with anyone.

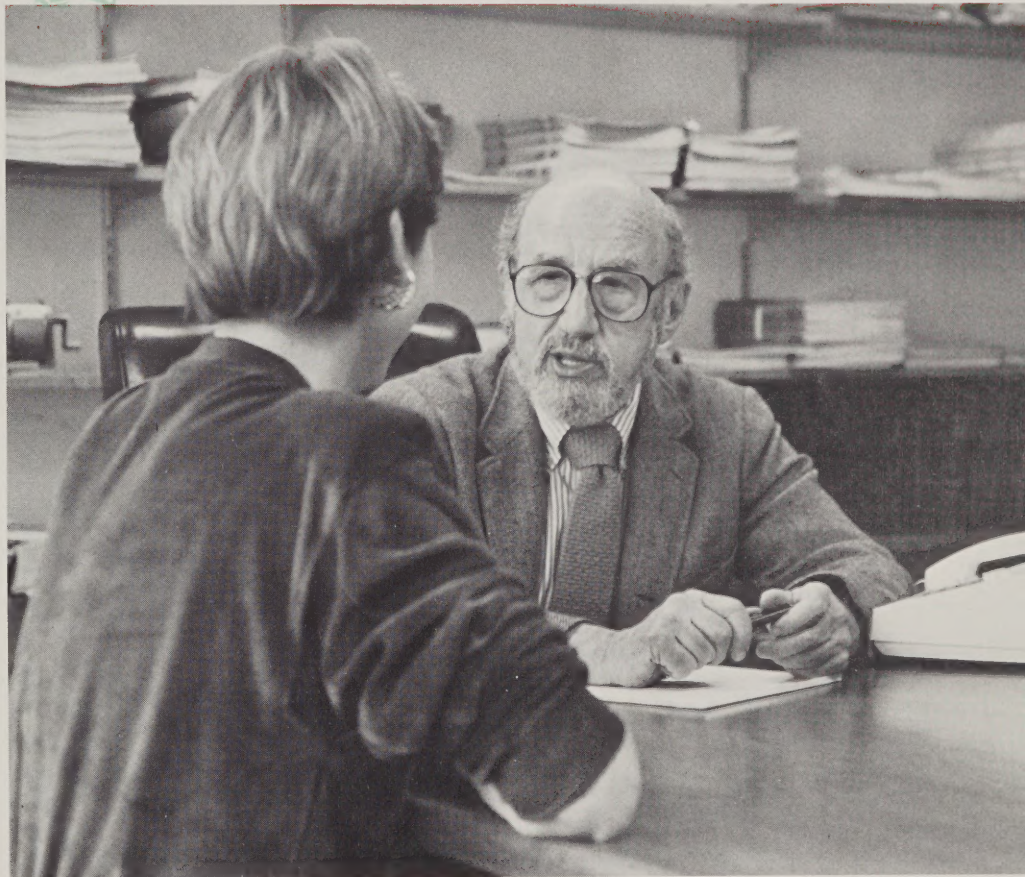
Sometimes people fear that they may be ridiculed for their feelings, or viewed as abnormal for grieving so openly. "But it's only a dog" is the typical response they dread hearing from people who trivialize the depth of the emotional bond that can exist between humans and their animal companions.

"It's important for people to realize that mourning the death of a pet is legitimate—a very appropriate response to the loss of a relationship that is as authentic as any other strongly held human relationship," according to Dr. Avery Weisman, senior psychiatrist at Massachusetts General Hospital, and professor of psychiatry emeritus at Harvard Medical School.

Now retired from active practice, Dr. Weisman has linked his experience in bereavement counseling during his forty years on the MGH staff with his long-standing interest in animal welfare to develop a Companion Animal Bereavement Counseling program at the League.

For the past six months, Dr. Weisman has been volunteering his time several days a week to provide an opportunity for people who are mourning the loss of a pet to explore and express their feelings.

Generally, the counseling process begins with a one-to-one evaluation, and, depending on the situation, continues with either group support meetings or further individual counseling sessions. Several support groups are currently in progress, with others planned.



Dr. Avery Weisman helps bereaved pet owners deal with their loss.

It's never too soon or too late to benefit from counseling, according to Dr. Weisman. His clients have ranged from some whose pets died only days before, to others whose loss occurred over a year ago. For some, grief is also compounded by unwarranted guilt, he notes. "This is true not only in cases where pets have had to be euthanized, but also where pets have died in meaningless accidents, and even when death resulted from natural causes. There is always that human tendency to think 'if only I had done

this,' or 'if only I hadn't done that.'"

For those who are dealing with the loss of a pet, Dr. Weisman offers the following advice: "Early replacement with another pet is seldom advisable. Be patient with yourself. Allow time to grieve, and be more tolerant of your feelings."

Anyone interested in arranging an appointment for Companion Animal Bereavement Counseling can do so, at no charge, by calling Janice Bosworth at the League, (617) 426-9170.



A New Day at the Zoo

With the opening this fall of the African Tropical Forest exhibit at the Franklin Park Zoo, Boston area youngsters and adults as well have an unparalleled opportunity to get to know endangered and exotic species of animals in the best way possible—by meeting them face to face.

One of the largest open space tropical forest exhibits in the nation, the African Rain Forest features more than one acre of indoor space and a total of three acres, when including outdoor exhibits and support areas. A naturalistic habitat is created inside the domed structure by the largest collection of tropical plants in New England, four waterfalls, a rainbow, 67,000 square feet of hand sculpted rock formations, and a tropical atmosphere controlled at 72 degrees Fahrenheit and a humidity level between 60 and 70 percent.

The African Tropical Forest houses over 150 animals representing more than 50 species, including western lowland gorillas, bongo antelopes, dwarf buffalo, yellow-backed duikers,

silvery-cheeked hornbills, Nile monitors, and mandrills. An aquatic theater offers an underwater look at pygmy hippopotamuses, clawed frogs, and endangered fish, while overhead, more than 100 birds and fruit bats fly freely under the exhibit dome, touching down in many of the animal exhibit areas.

"This is the culmination of many years of hard work on the part of the zoo to establish a very worthwhile exhibit, one that epitomizes the modern concept of displaying animals in their natural environment," notes Arthur G. Slade, League president.

The exhibit also features an ongoing slide presentation on tropical forests and a research station which allows the public contact with the tools of the wildlife research sciences. Three indoor classrooms will accommodate approximately 150 people.

Undoubtedly, the main attractions at the exhibit are six lowland gorillas, who are presently getting to know each other, and being encouraged to socialize in two separate familial



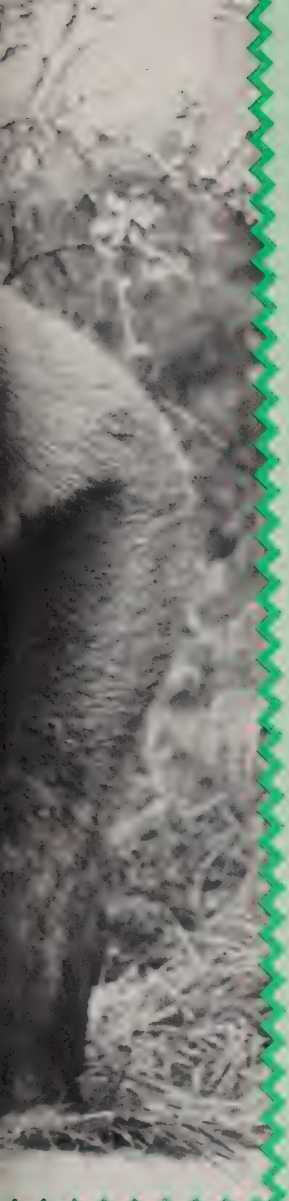
Kiki, an 8-year-old female Western Lowland

groupings. V.I.P., a ten-year-old male, his mate Gigi, who is 18, and a female, an eight-year-old named Bobby, form one group. The other trio consists of Bobby, the 25-year-old patriarch who weighs in at 525 pounds, Kiki, the 35-year-old female, and Kuby (named for Kubandu), a male adolescent who is over six, who is Gigi's son.

Visitors are cautioned, however, not to spend all of their time at the exhibit, for the Franklin Park Zoo

Kubandu, a 6½-year-old male gorilla, in closeup at right, and Bobby, the 25-year-old patriarch, here enjoying the outdoor environment at the African Tropical Forest.





High on the list of the MetroParks Zoos' stated mission is "to create an enjoyable environment through the exhibition of animals in natural settings that encourage people to understand, respect and appreciate all animals and the habitats in which they live, and promote the preservation and welfare of all animals in their natural habitats." With the opening of the African Tropical Forest, the zoo has taken a giant stride toward the accomplishment of this goal. The next step, already in the planning stage, is the construction of a lion exhibit near the entrance of the Franklin Park Zoo, a project which zoo officials hope will get underway next spring.

The MetroParks Zoos—the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston and the Stone Zoo in Stoneham—are owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and operated by the Metropolitan District Commission. The Boston Zoological Society serves as a friends organization to the MetroParks Zoos, assisting with membership and fundraising.

The Franklin Park Zoo is accessible by public transportation by taking bus #16 from the MBTA's Orange Line Forest Hills station or Red Line, Andrew station. On Sundays, a free zoo shuttle bus picks up at the Forest Hills station every 12 minutes.

Admission to the zoo is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children 5 to 17, senior citizens and students. Admission is free to everyone on Tuesday afternoons, and free at all times for children under 5. For more information, phone (617) 442-0991.



"Doolin" (top), an Addax (member of the antelope family) recently benefited from modern technology when Zoo veterinarian Dr. Jack Curtin reattached his broken antler, with the assistance of a dentist and a plastics engineer. Other Franklin Park Zoo residents include the inhabitants of Bird World (above); the zebra (below left), part of the Hooves and Horns exhibit; and a variety of farm animals at the Children's Zoo, being visited (below right) by Nathan Loveday, 3, of Raynham.

In 1910 by Frederick Law
offers an abundance of other
experiences. In the 72-acre
which is part of the MetroParks
Children's Zoo, featuring
and farm animals and a pet-
area; Bird's World, with a
indoor environment exhibits,
tght cage and a waterfowl
Hooves and Horns, featur-
exotic hooved animals as
debeest, and zebras.

Goldstein, executive director of
Zoos.



ANNUAL FAIR





A Veterinary Update: Caring for Aging Pets

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Just as it does with humans, old age has a way of sneaking up on pets, with gradual physical and behavioral changes occurring imperceptibly until one day, almost overnight it seems, you suddenly realize that your once boisterous dog or frisky cat has grown old. Old age, per se, should not be regarded as a disease, but simply as a different stage of life, with different needs. By learning about and adjusting to your aging pet's special needs, you can help make its senior years both happy and comfortable.

The onset of old age varies greatly between dogs and cats, and among different breeds of dogs. Cats can live as long as 20 or more years. In general, larger breeds of dogs have shorter life spans than smaller breeds, with the largest dogs, Saint Bernards or Great Danes, for example, beginning to show signs of aging as early as six or seven years, while the smallest dogs can continue to appear young and lively well into their teens.

Certain signs can alert you to the fact that your pet is aging. These include graying hair around the muzzle and whiskers, increased body fat around the midsection (which can indicate that calories are being burned more slowly), increased sleep, hearing loss, hazy or droopy eyes, and changes in temperament or behavior.

Regular visits to a veterinarian to ensure early detection of any health problems are especially important for the older pet. Certain warning signs call for an immediate health examination. These include an increase in water consumption, stiff joints, a sudden change in bowel habits, frequent urination, shortness of breath or coughing, and foul breath. These symptoms can indicate a number of different health problems, such as heart or kidney trouble, tumors, arthritis, and gum or dental disease. Medical advances have made it possible today for your veterinarian to

treat these conditions and improve the quality of your pet's remaining years. Pets today benefit from many of the advanced medical procedures that help people, such as pacemakers, contact lenses, and even cancer-fighting treatments such as radiation and chemotherapy.

Minor adjustments in your day-to-day pet care routine can keep your pet healthy and happy for a longer period of time. Maintaining a stable routine of meals, walks and naps is particularly important for an older pet, since the stress caused by sudden changes in schedule can contribute to a decline in health. Diet reduction may be called for, to prevent obesity. Moderate exercise can help prevent stiffening joints. Your aging pet may need to be taken out more frequently, if bladder problems occur.

Sometimes, behavioral changes can be the first indications of age-related health problems. Sudden aggression (snapping or biting) in a previously gentle animal may be induced by the pain associated with arthritis. A pet that begins disobeying commands, barking excessively, or running in front of cars may be going deaf. Sudden lapses in house training routines may be behavioral, but they can also be caused by renal disease. The humane response to this problem is not to isolate the animal in an area where it can't soil rugs, but to take the animal out more frequently or provide a paper-training area, especially if your pet is home alone all day while you are at work.

Many behavioral problems are caused by an increased resistance to change on the part of an older animal, and owners can best help their pets by keeping social and environmental changes, such as travel, moves, or the introduction of new people or animals, to a minimum whenever possible.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

NEW SHELTER MANAGER APPOINTED IN SALEM

James A. Stasio, Sr., formerly assistant shelter manager at the League's Cape Cod Branch, has been appointed manager of the Sheldon Branch in Salem. He joined the League staff in July, 1986, after serving two years as dog officer for the City of Lawrence, and prior to that for four years as an ambulance driver for the MSPCA.



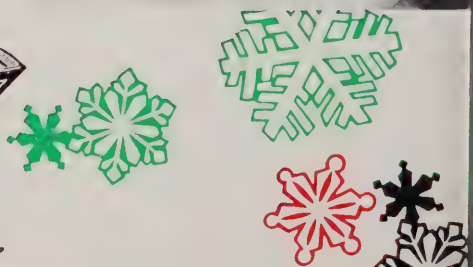
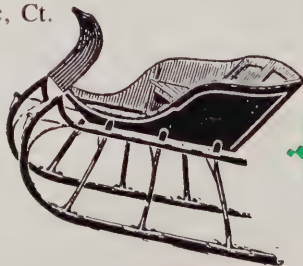
GIVING CREDIT TO PET LOVERS

A Boston based bank, The Massachusetts Company, Inc. (TMC) has introduced a new VISA credit card with exclusive benefits and discounts for pet owners. The cards come in two designs, featuring full color photos of kittens or puppies, and can be embossed with the pet's name, in addition of course to its owner's name. In addition to all the normal features of a credit card, including access to automatic cash machines and travel accident insurance, TMC's Pet Lover's VISA card offers comprehensive pet health insurance at savings for card members. The insurance, which provides up to \$2,500 for each illness or injury, plus coverage for veterinary fees, x-rays and prescriptions, is offered by the Animal Health Insurance Agency, the only such program endorsed by the American Humane Association. Members also receive a coupon book with discounts on pet foods and supplies, and a quarterly newsletter, "Exceptional Pet." The card carries a 16.75% annual percentage rate, and a \$35 annual fee, with a 25% fee reduction offered whenever a friend becomes a member.



LEAGUE HONORED BY RED ACRE FARM

Dr. Edward A. Leonard, director of veterinary medicine at the League, accepts a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the League clinic, at the Red Acre Farm Hearing Dog Center's Open House, held September 24. With him are Ellen Terryberry (l) and Melanie Stilson (r), both of Red Acre. Former ARL shelter pets that have most recently been trained at Red Acre to become certified companion/assistants to hearing impaired persons, include: "Allie," a tri-colored Sheltie, placed this past summer in the home of a young deaf man in Connecticut; "Susie," a lively, black poodle, recently matched with Joan Thomas of New Britain, Ct., who has been hearing impaired since birth; and "Blondie," a former stray retriever/spaniel, pictured here with new owner Alice Baril of Willimantic, Ct.





POLICE HORSES AWAIT SANTA'S ANNUAL VISIT

The League will hold its annual Christmas Dinner for Horses on Tuesday, December 14, at 11 a.m., in front of Faneuil Hall in Boston. Friends are invited to join the festivities as the League's Santa distributes toys, apples, Blue Seal horse feed and new blankets to Boston, State and City Police horses, while League volunteers deliver the same holiday treats to working horses in stables throughout the area.



NEW BOOKS

Animal Heroes, edited by Paul W. Stevens and illustrated by John Stelec. Here are 53 stories of housecats and canine warriors, as well as geons, pigs, dolphins, horses and fourfooted heroes, all of whom acted courageously to save human lives. Sharp & Dunnigan Publications, Inc., 168 pages (hardcover), \$16.95.

Coping With Sorrow on the Loss of a Pet, by Moira Anderson. A sympathetic, written book aimed at helping pet owners deal with every aspect of pet loss. Contains practical advice on dealing with emotions, handling difficult decisions, and useful steps to accomplish healing. Grigore Press, \$6.95.

Animals and People Sharing the World, edited by Andrew N. Rowan. Essays examine the human-animal bond, extending far back into human history and across social and racial differences. This collection of essays is contributed by selected writers from the international conference of the Delta Society, held in London in 1986. University Press of England, \$9.95 (paperback), \$20.00 (cloth).



SWISS GIVE A BRAKE FOR ANIMALS

Respect for animals must override traffic regulations in Switzerland, according to a recent ruling by the Swiss Federal Court that motorists cannot be held liable for causing a traffic accident if they brake sharply to avoid hitting an animal. The court ruling, according to a Reuters news agency report, overturned the conviction of a driver who had slammed on her brakes to avoid hitting two foxes on the road, resulting in a rear-end collision when the motorist behind her was unable to stop.

BOSTON FOUNDATION BRINGS PETS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER

Founded in 1985, the Pets and People Foundation in Boston grew out of a pilot program in which animals were taken to nursing homes to raise morale and combat depression. Today, the visitation and pet therapy program has expanded to include hospitals, prisons, other private institutions, and even private homes. The Foundation also conducts research on pet-facilitated therapy. League president Arthur G. Slade has been a member of the board of directors of Pets and People since 1988. Further information on the program, including pet visit arrangements or volunteer opportunities, can be obtained from: Stanley Wald, Executive Director, Pets and People Foundation, 6 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, (617) 742-1480.





A Winter Treat

As the days grow shorter and the weather gets colder, our thoughts turn to wintertime fun. We eagerly await the season's first snowfall and thoughts of building snowmen and sledding with our friends. We can't wait for the upcoming holidays and the excitement that surrounds them, the anticipation of giving and receiving gifts with those we love. It really is a magical time of year.

The winter and holiday season can be a lot of fun. However, it is a time in which we need to pay close attention to our pets. This is a time of year when there are a lot of changes both inside our homes (Christmas trees, holiday lights, ornaments . . .) and outside (cold weather, snow, ice . . .). Many of these changes can be *hazardous* to our pet's health and safety.

Here are some tips on how you can protect your pet from the holiday and winter hazards.

Holiday decorations, while fun to put up and pretty to look at, can present a danger to your pet. Tinsel, artificial snow, and some plants can make an animal very sick if they are swallowed. Ornaments, lights, and electrical cords can injure a pet if they break or are bitten into. Play it safe and keep your pets away from these items as they can be very tempting to a playful pet.

Food is also another common problem for pets during this time of the year. The sweet smells that fill the air make our mouths water in anticipation of a holiday feast. However, chocolates and other candies are no treats for pets as they may make them very sick. Holiday roasts, turkeys and hams are also very tasty to pets but they can cause an upset stomach or diarrhea. Bones from these meals are also dangerous as they may be swallowed and cause an injury to a pet's *digestive system* or may cause a pet to choke.



You should feed your pets only food that was made specifically for them. Feed them close to the time when you eat so that they won't feel left out and end up begging at the table.

Gifts and toys are plentiful during this time of year. Keep your pet away from them as many have sharp edges or small parts that can be swallowed by an animal. Wrapping paper, string, twist ties and plastic bags that gifts are wrapped in can also be dangerous. Instead buy your pet a safe, sturdy pet toy that it can play with.

Another very important thing to remember is to *never* give anyone a pet as a gift. Many people may not have the time that is needed to properly take care of a pet or they may not be ready to take on the responsibility of owning



t. Instead give them a gift certificate to a pet shop or humane society; that way they can choose a pet that is right for them or they can change the gift certificate for money if they do not want a pet.

Cold weather can be very dangerous to a pet that is left out too long. Pets should never be left outside alone, especially in cold weather. If you have a short-haired or older pet, you should have them wear a pet sweater before going for walks. You should also put vaseline on the bottom of a pet's paws to protect them from rock salt when it is walking outside. When you return from your walk remember to dry your pet off and clean its paws of any rock salt. Provide your pet with a warm, comfortable place to sleep.

If you have an outdoor dog, make sure that it has a proper doghouse with dry bedding and a flap over the doorway to keep out the cold wind. Check outdoor water bowls often to make sure they have not frozen. Do not let cats go outdoors alone. Often they crawl up under cars seeking shelter and warmth near the engine. They can be seriously hurt when someone starts the car. Remind your parents to bang on the hood or beep the horn of their cars before starting it up in case someone else's cat is hiding there.

Antifreeze is used in cars to keep the radiator from freezing in the winter. *Antifreeze* tastes sweet to pets but it is very *poisonous* and kills pets if they swallow it. Remind your parents to wipe up any antifreeze that may have spilled in the garage or driveway.

The winter and holiday season is a fun time of year. Give your pets a treat they won't forget by providing them a warm and safe place to live. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**

VOCABULARY WORDS

Hazardous—risky, dangerous.

Digestive System—parts of the body used to eat food and to change it so that the body can use it. The mouth, stomach and intestines are part of the digestive system.

Antifreeze—a liquid added to the water in a car's radiator to keep it from freezing.

Poisonous—containing a poison, a substance that is very harmful to life and health.

PETS IN THE PICTURE



1



5



6



2



3



4

1 Theresa M. Harrington of Charlestown sends also photo of "Toby," resting on his favorite chair. "What a dog!" writes Ms. Harrington, who adopted Toby from the League in February, 1988.

2 "'Cara' is everything a person could want in a pet and companion," writes Virginia Treasure of Roslindale. "She's happy, playful, loving and entertaining. This is the first time I've adopted a pet from a shelter, and it's been an ideal situation."

3 Josephine Nelson of Watertown sends this picture of her puppy, a pug named "Major," who obviously considers Christmas a formal event!

4 "Jingles," who was adopted from the League by the St. Mark's convent in Dorchester, curls up in her favorite spot in front of the altar in the convent chapel at Christmas. "She adapted herself to convent living, and we think she is the best cat in Dorchester," writes Sister Ann Julie. "Don't worry about her being loved—the 15 of us take care of that!"

5 The Antonelli family of Woburn shares this picture of "Snowflake" and "Pretty" Antonelli, "our babies adopted from the ARL."

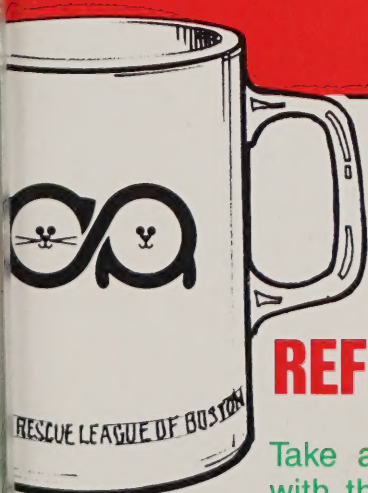
6 "His name is 'Joey,' and he sure is a Joy," is how Prescott of Westwood describes her pet, adopted from the League's Dedham shelter. "Everyone tells me he is so happy so I'm not alone when I say that. As you can see, he has found the comforts of home."



*May your every holiday wish
come true!*



Season's Greetings
from all of your friends at the
Animal Rescue League of Boston



THE PAWS THAT REFRESHES!

Take a coffee break
with this official ARL
mug. This generous-sized mug
comes in white, with blue logo, priced at
\$7.00 each (including shipping and handling).

ORDER FORM:

Please send me _____ mugs at \$7.00 each.

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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____,
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Third prize winning photo, junior color division, by Sarah Chen, 10, of Burlington, whose model is her cat, "Sassy."



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